

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7709

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SUB: SPECIAL SELF-HELP (SSH) PROJECTS IN KENYA

REF NAIROBI 4902

1. SUMMARY. IN FY 1976, AFTER PROGRAM ABSENCE OF SIX YEARS, U.S. GOVT AGAIN MADE MONEY AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY FOR SPECIAL SSELF-HELP (SSH) PROJECTS IN KENYA. RECENT INAUGURATION OF TWO COMPLETED PROJECTS ACHIEVED DESIRED LOCAL IMPACT. ON APRIL 6, AMBASSADOR AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND PLANNING, MAWI KIBAKI, INAUGURATED WORK BUILDING AND STAFF QUARTERS FOR TRAINING OF RURAL WOMEN IN WOOL SPINNING AND WEAVING IN NANYUKI (NORTHERN KIKUYU). ON MARCH 21, FOUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PARTICIPATED IN CEREMONY MARKING INAUGURATION OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE UNIT AT MULALA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MACHAKOS DISTRICT (KAMBA). PUBLICITY EXTENSIVE. SELF-HELP ELEMENT SUBSTANTIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. AT NANYUKI, LARGE COMMUNITY 125 MILES NORTH OF NAIROBI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USED DONATION OF 15,000 DOLLARSS FROM FY 1976 AND TQ FUUNDS TO CONSTRUCT TRAINING BUILDING FOR WOOL SPINNING AND WEAVING AND PARTIALLY EQUIPPED IT WITH SPINNING WHEELS AND LOOMS. EMBASSY DIRECTED ENTIRE PROJECT. TRAINING OF SIX WOMEN ALREADY BEGUN. NUMBER WILL INCREASE TO 15 WHEN FURNISHING COMPLETED BY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EAST AFRICA. PRODUCTS INCLUDE LOOSE-WOVEN LADIES' SHAWLS AND WALL HANGINGS OF INDIGENOUS DESIGN. PEACE
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CORPS SUPPLIED WELL-QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER, SWAHILI SPEAKING, FOR TWO YEARS TO MANAGE PROJECT. SHE WILL GIVE PRIMARY EMPHASIS TO QUALITY CONTROL AND MARKETING WITH EYE TO POSSIBLE EXPORT.

3. KIBAKI CONDUCTED FUND-RAISING AUCTION AT INAUGURATION WHICH NETTED ADDITIONAL 5,000 DOLLARS.

4. MULALA IS MODEST VILLAGE DEEP IN KAMBALAND. ENTIRE TOWN TURNED OUT FOR AMBASSADOR'S OPENING OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE UNIT AT MULALA SECONDARY SCHOOL. FOUR M.P.'S ATTENDED AND DREW ATTENTION TO FACT THAT VILLAGES HAD NEVER BEFORE SEEN VISIT BY FOREIGN AMBASSADOR OF ANY DESCRIPTION. U.S. GOVT DONATION OF 1,500 DOLLARS USED FOR SEWING MACHINES, GAS OVENS, AND OTHER IMPLEMENTS TO TEACH DOMESTIC HYGIENE AND MANAGEMENT. EACH CLASS WILL COMPRISE 25 GIRLS, SOME OF WHOM WILL THEREAFTER SEEK EMPLOYMENT AS DOMESTIC SERVANTS. SELF-HELP ELEMENT WAS EVIDENT IN MAJOR EFFORTS EXERTED BY LOCAL PEOPLE TO CONSTRUCT AND FINISH CLASSROOM IN TIME FOR INAUGURATION.

5. FOR BOTH PROJECTS USIS ARRANGED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY, TRANSPORTING JOURNALISTS TO SITES IN VEHICLE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS BEING POUCHED.

6. LOOKING TO FUTURE, EMBASSY HOPES COMMIT BALANCE OF 8,500 DOLLARS FROM FY 1977 FUNDS DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS TO POTABLE WATER PROJECT IN WESTERN KENYA.
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